

Greens call on government to bring in carbon tax at COP26



13 October 2021

- **Carbon tax a critical lever to help shift the UK towards a clean green economy**
- **Tax yield will help deliver social dividend by funding cheap and accessible public transport, free home insulation, and a basic income**

The Green Party is calling on the UK to announce a carbon tax at COP26, describing it as one of the greatest levers to drive change in society.

Greens propose the tax should start at £100 per tonne of carbon dioxide released, rising to £500 per tonne by 2030. [1]

The tax would apply to all carbon emissions, but the tax yield would provide a 'dividend' which would prevent poorer people being hit with higher costs. It would in part be used to fund a Universal Basic Income for all and help those on lower incomes meet the costs of transitioning to a carbon free future.

The party estimates the UK will be responsible for around 800 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2021 [2]. Its proposal for a carbon tax and dividend, starting at £100 per tonne of CO₂e, would mean up to £80 billion would be generated, which could then be used to invest in the big changes needed for a rapid transition to a zero carbon economy, and to support UK residents through the transition. [3]

Adrian Ramsay, newly-elected co-leader of the Green Party, said:

"A carbon tax is one of the greatest levers we can apply to help shift us towards a clean green economy and fairer society.

"Just 100 companies have been responsible for three quarters of the world's greenhouse gas emissions since 1988 [4]. A carbon tax would target these big polluters, particularly energy and oil companies, and render coal, oil and gas financially unviable as cheaper renewable energies rise up to take their place.

"But as well as tackling the climate crisis, a carbon tax will offer a social dividend which will help the UK to genuinely become a more equal society. Carbon tax yields will provide funds to invest in cheap and accessible public transport, free home insulation, and a basic income.

"A carbon tax is a win-win for the climate and for social justice. We urge the government to show true leadership and introduce such a tax as a key plank of its COP26 strategy."

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Notes

1

Summary of Green party carbon tax proposal:

A carbon tax of £100 per tonne of carbon dioxide rising to £500 by 2030, applied to all emissions, with some of the tax yield used to compensate those on lower incomes.

Cost increases from carbon taxes will be more than offset for families through the introduction of Universal Basic Income. Home heating costs would be reduced by a large-scale nationwide home retrofit programme. Additional transport-related costs would be reduced by investment in good-quality, cheap public transport and infrastructure for active travel.

The carbon tax rate will rise as the use of fossil fuel declines, which will help balance the yield out over time, but the ultimate purpose of the tax is to eliminate fossil fuel use and drive the green transition. Making fossil fuels unaffordable is part of the point of the tax.

While pushing other countries to follow suit on introducing a carbon tax, it would be important that such a tax does not place the UK at an economic disadvantage. There would therefore need to be a tariff or 'carbon border adjustment' on goods imported from countries that are not seen to be playing their part in reducing emissions to levels required to meet the Paris Agreement limit 1.5C – a policy currently being debated by the EU.

2

The Green Party has calculated the UK will be responsible for around 800 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2021 – [520m tonnes of production emissions](#), including aviation and shipping; [an additional 30m tonnes for the high altitude factor](#) on aviation; and [302m tonnes from imports](#).

3

The Green Party included its carbon tax and dividend in its 10 point climate plan published last year:
https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Communications/10_Point_Climate_Plan.pdf

4

<https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2017/jul/10/100-fossil-fuel-companies-investors-responsible-71-global-emissions-cdp-study-climate-change>

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Overwhelming public support for Green Party policies on tackling climate crisis



12 October 2021

Responding to the largest ever analysis of policy preferences on tackling the climate crisis and achieving a net-zero economy [1], Green Party co-leader, Adrian Ramsay, said:

“This biggest ever analysis of climate policy preferences shows that there is overwhelming public support for bold action to tackle the climate crisis and achieve a net zero economy.

“It is interesting to note that measures the government has either shied away from or failed to invest in are actually the most popular – a carbon tax, a frequent flier levy, large investment in improving buses and cycling and grants for installing heat pumps. This shows the government can be far bolder – perhaps they should just adopt the Green Party manifesto. No wonder Boris Johnson’s climate change spokeswoman urged people to join the Green Party [2].

“Given the findings of this analysis it should come as no surprise that the Green Party is regularly polling as the third party in British politics and experiencing huge growth in its members.”

Notes

[1]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/11/uk-public-backs-carbon-tax-high-flyer-levy-and-heat-pump-grants-study-shows>

[2]

<https://political-viewer.com/2021-07-30/boris-johnsons-climate-change-spokeswoman-join-the-green-party>

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[Greens welcome new Wildlife Trusts report on need to tackle nature crisis](#)



8 October 2021

- **Climate and nature emergencies need to be tackled in tandem**
- **Climate and Ecology Bill would enshrine action in law**

Greens have welcomed a new report by the Wildlife Trusts which says that COP26 must be a turning point for nature and that the climate emergency cannot be tackled without ambitious plans to address the nature crisis too.

The report says that Net Zero needs nature but nature needs Net Zero; that restoring nature locks up carbon, but these carbon stores are at risk if we fail to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions.

Similarly, the Climate and Ecology Bill, which has been tabled in parliament by Green MP Caroline Lucas, calls for a joined-up approach to address the nature emergency and climate crisis together. The Bill now has the support of 110 MPs across 8 political parties.

Amelia Womack, Deputy leader of the Green Party, said:

“This new report throws a spotlight on the importance of nature in addressing the climate crisis but also how rising temperatures and the chaos being caused by our changing climate are devastating and disrupting nature and wildlife. It is essential that we tackle the climate and nature emergencies together.

“This is exactly what the Climate and Ecology Bill, put forward by our Green MP Caroline Lucas, seeks to do. It would address the nature emergency shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis.

“This would mean that many of the demands made by the Wildlife Trusts, such as upland peat restoration, a complete ban on bottom-trawling fishing and incentivising farmers to manage their land for nature, would be enshrined in law.”

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Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer to join Day of Action on Empty Homes



8 October 2021

- **Newly-elected co-leader will speak at event organised by Campaign Against Empty Homes**
- **Denyer will back a call to retrofit 270,000 long-term empty homes to help alleviate housing, health and climate crises**
- **Denyer: “A retrofitting revolution would bring long-term empty homes and council estates back into use, providing warm, comfortable homes for many of those who currently can’t afford one, while helping to reduce emissions”**

Newly-elected Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer will be speaking at a Day of Action on Empty Homes, where she will back a call to retrofit 270,000 long term empty homes, as well as council estates, to help solve the housing, climate and health crises.

Denyer, who was elected as Green Party co-leader alongside Adrian Ramsay last week [1], will be speaking at the event organised by the Campaign Against Empty Homes on Saturday [2].

Denyer said:

“The housing crisis in this country is hurting families and communities across England and Wales and causing serious damage to the climate and our natural environment.

“Before Covid, more than 3 million people in England and a further 155,000 in Wales were living in fuel poverty [3]. By failing to adequately insulate homes the government is forcing people to spend money they don’t have, to burn fossil fuels that the world can’t afford to burn.

“This does not need to be the case. A retrofitting revolution would bring long-term empty homes and council estates back into use, providing warm, comfortable homes for many of those who currently can’t afford one, while helping to reduce emissions.

“This is a clear case of where the Green solution is not only the best for the environment, but it also means communities do not get broken up and families would not have to face the prospect of getting through another winter while struggling to pay their fuel bills.”

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.greenparty.org.uk/news/2021/10/01/carla-denyer-and-adrian-ramsay-announced-as-new-green-party-co-leaders/>

2

<https://www.actiononemptyhomes.org/News/day-of-action-october-9th>

3

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966509/Annual_Fuel_Poverty_Statistics_LILEE_Report_2021_2019_data_.pdf

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[Pandora Papers show Russia is buying our democracy, warn Greens](#)



5 October 2021

The Green Party has said the Pandora Papers provide further evidence of Russian influence over and interference in UK democracy.

The Papers reveal that a former banker, Lubov Chernukhin, is one of the biggest female donors in recent British political history [1]. She donates enough to the Tories to qualify for membership of a small group of ultra-rich donors who meet monthly with Johnson and the chancellor, Rishi Sunak.

Chernukhin's husband is a former deputy finance minister under Russian president, Vladimir Putin. There is also evidence that the firm of a Russian-born oil tycoon has made huge donations to the Conservative party.

Furthermore, while Russian president, Vladimir Putin, does not appear in the files by name, numerous close associates do.

Earlier this year Green Party MP, Caroline Lucas, was one of six politicians who took the government to court over refusing to establish a public inquiry over alleged Russian interference in UK elections [2].

Green Party co-leader, Adrian Ramsay, said:

“Boris Johnson and his government have consistently failed to investigate Russian interference in our electoral processes and therefore failed to adequately protect our democracy. This is hardly surprising given that the

Tory party receives vast sums from multi-millionaire Russian donors, who make their millions from dodgy off-shore dealings. Many of them are also close to the Putin regime. No wonder the government didn't want to follow up on the Russia Report.

“Dominic Raab has used Law and Order day at the Tory Party Conference to attack the Human Rights Act, which has been key to some of the most important justice fights over the last 30 years and offers important protection against an overbearing government. This is just the sort of thing one might expect to hear from authoritarian leaders like Vladimir Putin.

“Voter suppression, attempts to limit the constitutional scope of the judiciary, and attacks on the freedom to protest are all policies more appropriate to a dictatorship than a flourishing democracy.”

Notes

[1] <https://www.theguardian.com/news/live/2021/oct/04/pandora-papers-live-sun-ak-says-hmrc-will-review-leaked-documents?page=with:block-615b26408f0885f4b086d34b#block-615b26408f0885f4b086d34b>

[2] <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/russian-election-interference-uk-high-court-b1870671.html>

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